

**St Mary-at-Finchley**  
**Parish Eucharist**  
**10am**  
**Christmas Day**  
**25<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

The Gathering

**Stand** A hymn is sung as the choir, servers and clergy enter

**Processional Hymn** 377 O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace upon the earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the Angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His Heaven,  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in;  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas Angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Kneel**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought, in what we have said and  
done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in  
us.  
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**GLORIA - to "God rest you merry"**

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
The clouds of angels sing.

Today in lowly Bethlehem  
Creation greets its king.  
We join our voices now with them,  
Our praise and worship bring

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

Jesus our Saviour, Lamb of God,  
Forgiveness, mercy, grace  
Are poured upon our darkened world  
To free the human race.  
Love shines out bright into our chaos  
From your radiant face.

You only are the holy one  
You only are the Lord  
Immanuel God with us  
The everlasting Word  
With Father and with Holy Ghost  
Ever to be adored.

## **The Collect**

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words  
'Let us pray'.

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again

and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

Sit

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah (9.2-7)**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 96**

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of**

**the Lord.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.'

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

**I sing to the Lord a new song and bless the name of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the letter to the Titus (2.11-14)**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2.1-14).

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sit**

*The Rector*

**Sermon**

*Stand*

The Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## ***Kneel***

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*The prayers may follow this sequence:*

*The Church of Christ*

*Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

*The local community*

*Those who suffer*

*The communion of saints*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy	(or)	Lord, hear us.
<b>hear our prayer.</b>		<b>Lord, graciously hear us.</b>

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

### ***Stand***

### **The Peace**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **The Offertory**

*A Hymn is sung as the elements of bread and wine are brought to the altar  
and the gifts of the people are collected.*

### **Offertory Hymn 554 While Shepherds**

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);

'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 'the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**Amen.**

***Stand***

**The Eucharistic Prayer** (Ding dong merrily)

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
and was born of the Virgin Mary  
by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
The God of all creation  
Peace and joy the angels' word  
To each and every nation.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

**Glory, glory to the king  
The God of all creation  
Heav'n and earth exultant sing  
The song of their salvation.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary the God-bearer  
and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Lift your voices now to praise  
The God of all creation  
On this holiest of days,**

**The feast of Incarnation.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!**

***Kneel***

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Agnus Dei** 51 Away in a manger

## **Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts

for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Communicant members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion in this Church. Anyone is welcome to come forward for to receive a blessing.*

During Communion: Zither Carol, trad arr. Willcocks

## **Kneel**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion prayer is said.*

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

**God of glory,  
you inspire us with the breath of life  
which brought to birth a new world in Christ.  
May we who are reborn in him  
be transformed by the renewal of our lives,  
that the light of your new creation  
may flood the world with your abundant grace;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Notices**



**Stand** A hymn is sung

**Post Communion Hymn** 199 Hark, the herald

Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the Angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the Incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

## **The Dismissal**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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